




MICHIGAN HEALTH & HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

*Advocating for hospitals and the patients they serve.*

TO: Members, House Health Policy Committee

FROM: Brian Peters, Senior Vice President, Advocacy 

DATE: January 31, 2006

SUBJECT: **House Bill 5493**  
**MHA position to be determined at the Legislative Policy Panel**  
**on February 2, 2006 - Staff Recommendation: Support**

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House Bill 5493, introduced on December 8, 2005 by Representative John Stakoe, would require Michigan to join the multi-state nurse licensure compact. The Compact is a model for mutual recognition between member states that provides mechanisms designed to make it easier for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses to move from state to state by permitting nurses to have a license in their state of residency which allows them to practice (both physical and electronic) in other states that are part of the compact.

The MHA has reviewed the Bureau of Health Professions White Paper on the NCSBN Nursing Licensure Compact (October 19, 2005) and appreciates the effort the Bureau and the State Board of Nursing expended to review the nurse licensure compact. The MHA agrees with the benefits of Compact membership identified in the document which include:

- Greater mobility for nurses
- Improved access to nursing care
- Enhanced discipline and information sharing among participating states
- Reduced frustration and time delays from obtaining licensure in each state will be eliminated
- Enhanced public protection especially during a time of disaster or other time of great need for qualified nursing services
- Availability of new practice opportunities such as telehealth.

The MHA also understands some of the concerns identified in the White Paper as well:

- How quickly other states will respond to disciplinary action or regulatory concerns.
- Impact on the ability for Michigan to set its own nursing standards.

However, the MHA does not agree with one concern raised in the Paper which stated that under the nurse licensure compact, "a significant burden is placed on employers to verify

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licenses.” In fact, this burden already exists. To meet national accreditation standards, Michigan’s hospitals have for many years had to verify a new nurse’s credentials and review licensure data for all employed nurses on an annual basis.

In summary, it is likely that the MHA will soon formally support HB 5493 because of the potential benefits membership in the Compact would bring for hospitals and Michigan communities. As always the MHA is willing to work with the Department of Community Health, the Bureau of Health Services and the Michigan Board of Nursing to ensure that any regulatory changes made to nurse licensing activities will create the benefits promised by membership in the multi-state nurse licensure compact.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Barkholz, Senior Director Advocacy, or Dave Finkbeiner, Senior Director of Legislative Issues, at 517-703-8601.